THE WAKEFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

PTA Bulletin

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WAKEFIELD PARENTS WILL HEAR CHILDREN ON PANEL AT PTA MEETING, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27

TOPIC IS SCHOOL CITIZENSHIP

Five students, representing Wakefield's four grades and the student council, will discuss " Building School Citizenship" on the panel discussion which will feature the next PTA meeting Wednesday evening, January 27, at 8 p.m. The meeting will be held in the new girls' gymnasium. Mr. Ira Funston, chairman for the program, will moderate. Parents may join in through questions from the floor. On the panel will be Jerry Gevich, 7th grade; Bob Gammon, 8th grade; Ronnie Heinemann, 9th grade; Kenneth Darling, 10th grade, and Chuck Johnson student council president.

During the business meeting, two questions coming up in the present session of the Virginia General Assembly will be discussed by Mr. Harold A. Stone, chairman of the legislation committee, for possible action by the membership. One is the proposal for court validation of bond issues to prevent nuisance suits, introduced in the legislative hopper by Mrs. Stone, Arlington delegate elected last fall. The other is in support of the Virginia Education Association program which calls for a state teacher salary scale ranging from $2800 to $4400, and improvement of the teacher retirement system.

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SCHEDULES TO BE EXPLAINED

Students' schedules for next year will be explained by the counseling staff and general education teachers to interested parents at two meetings next month. Parents of children now in the ninth and tenth grades will meet on Monday evening, February 1, at 8 p.m., with Mrs. Abigale Calvin and Mr. Francis Campbell, 9th and 10th grade counselors, and parents of eighth grade children will meet with Mrs. Elizabeth Algore on Tuesday evening, February 2.

This is a county-wide plan for discussing the steps involved in programming for students, acquainting parents with what Arlington schools offer and how students are assisted to plan their schedules.

Individual conferences for parents with the general education teachers in the intermediate grades will be held between February 2 and March 1. Letters will go home suggesting tentative conference dates, to be confirmed by the parents. Counselors will go into every 10th grade English classroom to help the students select courses for next year. The schedules will be brought home for family discussion and approval.

NEW ROOMS OPENED

Wakefield grows more glamorous by the week as more and more new facilities are finished and made available to faculty and students. Since the November PTA tour, some 18 rooms and facilities have been opened for use, including three home economics units, three art rooms, one instrumental and two vocal music rooms, four industrial arts shops, one large gymnasium and one auxiliary gymnasium, two shower rooms and the school store. The lighting, design and equipment of each facility is a delight to the eye and the spirit - - quite enough to make any parent wish to be back in school and definitely enough to demand a vote of thanks to the Arlington School Board and authorities who conceived and executed the plans.

The January meeting will be held in the new girls' gym (the boys' gym will not be finished until next year). It is only slightly smaller than the main gym which will be 103 by 110 feet, and is planned to seat 2000 spectators. The girls' gym which will seat 200 spectators will be used by boys too this year, by utilizing the electrically operated doors which divide it in half with offices on each side of the partition. Downstairs the shower and locker rooms are entirely separate, of course - - placed on either side of the auxiliary gym which is something like 44 by 80 in dimension. This room has shuffleboard court marking set in the floor, and will be used for wrestling, acrobatics, dancing, tennis practice, etc.

Especially attractive are the lighting and decor of the music rooms, two of which have built in tiers for the youthful musicians. The arrangement and equipment of the industrial arts rooms demand - and will have next month - special attention for the information, pleasure and envy of almost any father.

MOTHERS' DREAM

Meanwhile let's take a little longer look at the home economics department which is designed to turn out the perfect homemaker of the next generation. The teaching staff is composed of Miss Dorothy Strickler, Miss Ann Dudley and Mrs Beulah Anderson. They are in charge of three units, each consisting of a food laboratory (kitchen) and laundry, and sewing-living area. Here Wakefield's vocational home economic course teaches girl students how to plan, market for and prepare meals, with stress on good diet selection; how to plan wardrobes and make clothes, as well as their care and selection; how to buy ready-made garments and how to buy patterns and materials for constructing their own garments; how to wash, dry and iron clothes properly; how to make the best use of a deep freeze, in marketing for it, planning meals to make use of it most effectively, and how to package foods for storage.

And just to demonstrate their skill, home ec girls baked nearly 4000 cookies for the holiday 10th grade home room parties!

Through the county purchasing program, Wakefield has the best possible modern equipment in its home ec department at prices running up to 40 percent less than an individual would pay. Each unit has a gas and an electric stove, a refrigerator, either wringer or automatic washing machine, clothes dryer plus laundry tub, the best aluminum and copper cooking utensils, sewing machines and such smaller appliances as irons, toasters, mixers, etc.

PLAN GROUP DISCUSSIONS

The highly successful series of panel discussions on "Patterns of Social Behavior" arranged last month by the PTA Curriculum and Parent Education committee has inspired a follow-through program of small discussion groups, announces Mrs. Alice P. Letzler, committee chairman. In these smaller, more flexible groups, parents can work out behavior standards or ask questions about curriculum or other school procedures.

All interested parents are urged to meet in the cafeteria on Tuesday evening, February 23, at 8 p.m. There they will receive assignments to classrooms for discussion in groups of from 10 to 15 under leadership teams of parents and teachers, and perhaps students.

Incidentally, the tape recordings made at the four panel discussion meetings are being edited and will be spliced into one tape for use by any county groups that are studying the subject of social behavior patterns among teenagers and would like to hear what four different panels at Wakefield thought about it.

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INSTRUCTION COUNCIL

The Community Council on Instruction, open to all Arlington citizens interested in learining about the curriculum in Arlington schools, met last Wednesday, January 20, in the Little Theater of W-L high school. The reading program in elementary, junior high and senior high schools was discussed by Arlington county school staff members. Dr. Harold Wilson, Wakefield principal, was one of those presenting the senior high school reading program. After the general discussion program, the meeting was broken into six study groups: (1) Junior high school programs; (2) Testing programs; (3) Progress in school; (4) Philosophy of the school system; (5) Why and how teaching has changed; (6) Balance in the instructional program in high schools. These study groups will be continued at the next meeting of the Council to which all are invited. That date is Wednesday, February 17, says Mrs. Letzler.

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THAT OTHERS MAY WALK

Teenage dancers of Wakefield's JRC and SRC are featuring the March of Dimes at their January parties. On the 22nd, the JRC collected money for the county polio drive and on the 29th the SRC party will do the same. Arlington's quota this year is $100,000, our share of the hoped for $75,000,000 total. This is a sharp rise over the $59 million raised and spent last year, but we are spurred on by the need to develop the new polio vaccine and to triple the gamma globulin injections. Arlington qualifies as one of the possible areas where second graders may receive the new vaccine this year.

Meanwhile the JRC under a committee headed by Mr. C. E. Wylie, and the SRC which operates itself, assisted by a parents committee headed by Mrs. Andrew Young, are flourishing. The SRC, run by a committee made up of one student from each 10th grade room, is planning a record-buying program. The JRC is making plans for their February 26th dance when they will raise money for the Heart Fund through penny votes for a King and Queen of the Ball! Their other February party will be the 5th.

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REMINDER

Don't forget that at the March 24th PTA meeting we will elect the nominating committee who will bring in the slate of new officers for the May election. The Executive committee will suggest names for this committee, and nominating may also be made from the floor. The general meeting program topic will be "Building a School Health Program."

WANT TO DANCE ?

If you yearn to swing your partner, western square dance style, you may be interested in the new series of lessons just getting under way under the sponsorship of the County Recreation department. Instructors are Jim McCorkle and Jack Moffet, who may be reached, respectively, at JE 2-4395 or JE 3-7698. The course will be held at the Tuckahoe Elementary school, 6550 North 26th street, and the cost is $1.50 per couple for the first three nights, and thereafter prepayment of $13.50 for nine lessons. Classes are held on Monday nights. They began January 18, but since the first three nights are to be open for registration, you still have time to join the fun.

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NEAT TRICK REAL TREAT

To all from Wakefield who participated in any manner in the Hallowe'en party for the benefit of Anderson Hospital come the hearty thanks of the committee in charge, writes Colonel R. J. McDuff. He declares:

"$2263.47 -- that's right - there are four digits before that decimal point. That is the amount the children of this community collected last Hallowe'en in lieu of treats on 'Trick or Treat' night for the Anderson Orthopedic Hospital. If you attended the block party that night along with 7000 of your neighbors then you know it was a success - - any way you looked at it, it was a success. The Fairlington Merchants Association and the Kiwanis Club procured and donated all of the prizes, all of the refreshments - - in fact, everything that went into the party except the money, which you so graciously and generously gave. While we say thanks to these two organizations and to the committee in charge, to the churches, schools and civic organization who cooperated - - our real thanks go to the youngsters who collected the money, giving up a night and the individual treats that were theirs by long custom. They did a superb job and we salute them for it."

Purchased for the hospital with the proceeds were six wheel s chairs, two hospital-size baby beds, two television sets (one for each ward where traction cases are immobilized), two walker-trainers, an oxygen tent of the very latest type and a microscope.

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HAVE YOU JOINED PTA ?

Wakefield is well on its way to the biggest membership in Virginia, with 1617 teachers and parents enrolled by January 15, reports Mrs. James E. Hill, membership chairman. Break down that figure, and we have 67 out of a possible 78 teachers, and 816 families out of a possible 1340 represented. That's good, but not perfect, and the goal of 2000 members still stands. If you have put away the membership application, why not dig it out, fill it in, and send it along with your child to his home room teacher? The dues are a mere 75 cents per individual or $1 per family - - checks may be made out to James R. McGlathery, PTA treasurer. Mrs. George Sullivan will be on hand Wednesday night to accept membership dues.

At the same time, you may wish to take a subscription to the National Parent-Teacher magazine, the official PTA publication, which is $1.25 per year. Mr. Foster Mohrhardt, 3525-B S. Stafford, library chairman, will take it for you. Or call him at KI 8-9115.

CLOTHING DISPENSARY

Have you mothers looked over outgrown children's clothing to see what is in good enough condition to turn over to the Clothing Dispensary sponsored by the Arlington County Council of PTA? The dispensary is maintained at the Hume School, 1801 S. Arlington Ridge Road, on Thursdays, from two to four p.m. and fills the need in many families for additional clothing for children. Mrs. James Salisbury, health chairman, asks that you bring clothing -- in such condition your own child would be happy to wear it if it fitted ! -- to the Wakefield school clinic where it will be sorted and sized before being dispatched to the Hume school.

Mrs. Salisbury reports that the audiometer readings for children in the 7th and 10th grades have been completed.

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LIBRARY NEARLY READY

The long-awaited opening of our school library should be taking place about the time of the January meeting or very soon thereafter. By the end of this year, school officials hope some 5000 volumes -- from the Madison library, new books, etc will be available for student use. The library is another beautiful adjunct of Wakefield.

There will be two periodical rooms for students's use, partitioned off from the main room largely with glass, and each of these can be separated into two conference rooms by a folding partition.Adjacent to the library is the audio-visual aids room, where students will be able to use tape recorders, record players, film strips and movie projectors as part of their school work.

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FOUNDERS DAY

February 17 marks the 57th year for the National Congress of Parents and Teachers. It might be well here to recall the five objectives which have motivated PTA from its birth:

To promote the welfare of children and youth in home, school, church and community.

To raise the standards of home life.

To secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth.

To bring into closer relation the home and the school, that parents and teachers may cooperate intelligently in child training.

To develop between educators and the general public such united efforts as will secure for every child the highest advantages in physical, mental, social and spiritual education.

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